



Department of State

TELEGRAM

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-14 ADS-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
INRE-00 ICAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-10 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 SMS-01 RP-10 SR-04
AID-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 HA-05 SY-05 SYE-00 CRR-02
/136 M

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O 271400Z JUL 80

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7094
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BEIJING
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY Dacca
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
GAEYRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 0653
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION USUM NEW YORK
USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
CINCEUR VAIHENGEN GE
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED by John Kelley

DATE 8/14/89

() RELEASE () DECLASSIFY
() EXCISE ; () DECLASSIFY in PART
() DENT () Non-responsive info.

FOR EO or PA exemptions

TS authority to:

() CLASSIFY as _____, OADR
() DOWNGRADE TS to () S or () C, OADR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KABUL 2203
KARACHI ALSO FOR RSS; CINCEUR AND CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLADS

E.O. 12065: GECS 7/27/86 (GRIFFIN, GEORGE G. B.) OR-M
TAGS: ASEC PDIP PEPR PINS PINT AF
SUBJECT: SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN
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REF: KABUL 2104 (NOTAL) ✓

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1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT).

2. SUMMARY: A DRASTIC INCREASE IN SOVIET HELICOPTER ACTIVITY OVER THE PAST THREE DAYS IS GENERALLY THOUGHT TO HAVE BEEN TRIGGERED BY A CONTINUING REVOLT OF AFGHAN TROOPS AT 8 SES SOUTH OF KABUL. THE TROUBLE REPORTEDLY BROKE OUT AS KARMAL ORDERED TOP OFFICIALS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY TO ATTEND THE THIRD "PLENUM" OF THE PDPA CENTRAL COMMITTEE, A MEETING WHICH WAS NOTABLE FOR ITS APPEALS FOR UNITY IF NOTHING ELSE. THESE EVENTS HAVE SERVED TO KEEP THE KABUL RUMOR MILL RUNNING AT TOP SPEED, AND THE REGIME IS APPARENTLY FINDING IT DIFFICULT TO REFUTE THE USUALLY ERRONEOUS ALLEGATIONS AT THE SAME RATE. THE STATUS OF THE KHALO-PARCHAM FEUD IS HARD TO DETERMINE AMID ALL THE DUST, BUT ALL SIGNS INDICATE THAT IT IS INTENSIFYING DESPITE KARMAL'S ASSURANCES TO THE "PLENUM" THAT "COMPLETE UNITY" EXISTS. THE NFA IS STILL STALLING ON APPROVING VISA APPLICATIONS FOR A NUMBER OF USG PERSONNEL AND MAY BE TRYING TO FORCE RECOGNITION BY APPOINTING AMBASSADORS TO THREE OTHER COUNTRIES. THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR FOLLOWED OTHER COMMUNIST ENVOYS ON HOME LEAVE AND THE NUMBER OF AMERICANS ROSE TO 48.

3. SOVIET MI-8 AND MI-24 HELICOPTERS, MIG-21 FIGHTERS AND HEAVY TRANSPORTS FILLED THE SKIES OVER KABUL FOR SEVERAL HOURS EACH DAY BEGINNING JULY 25 IN THE LARGEST DISPLAY OF AERIAL ACTIVITY SINCE THE DECEMBER 1979 INVASION. MOST OF THE MI-8 TRANSPORT AND MI-24 GUNSHIP HELICOPTERS WERE COMING FROM OR HEADING SOUTHWEST OF THE CITY; ONE FORMATION NUMBERED 28 HELICOPTERS ON JULY 25. MOST OF THE MI-24S ARE RETURNING WITH SIGNS OF EXPENDED AMMUNITION AND MANY OF OUR SOURCES REPORT HEAVY FIGHTING IN WARDAK AND GHAZNI PROVINCES. ONE CONTACT WHO LIVES IN THE
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NORTHERN PART OF THE CITY ASSERTED THAT SIMILAR FLIGHTS TO THE PARWAN VALLEY NORTH OF KABUL ARE CONTINUING AT THE SAME RATE AS LAST WEEK.

4. THE SOVIETS HAVE ALSO SET UP STRONG ROAD BLOCKS ON MAJOR ROADS LEADING OUT OF THE CITY; AT ONE ON ZTHEHQANDBJVMIBBBAD NEAR THE JUNCTION WHICH LEADS TO PAGHMAN, AN EMBOFF COUNTED FOUR SOVIET SELF-PROPELLED 122 MM M-1974 GUNS, FOUR BMPS, TWO BMDS, TWO BRMS, PLUS A VARIETY OF AFGHAN ARMOR INCLUDING TWO T-34 TANKS AND SEVERAL APCs. AFGHAN POLICE AND TROOPS ARE

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STOPPING EVERY VEHICLE TRYING TO ENTER THE CITY AND SEARCHING MANY OF THEM. THE ARMOR IS POSITIONED TO GUARD AGAINST ATTACKS FROM EVERY DIRECTION. DATT HAS POINTED OUT THAT SP GUNS PROVIDE EFFECTIVE DEFENSE AGAINST TANKS.

5. A NUMBER OF SOURCES (AND INFORMATION IN OTHER CHANNELS) HAVE INFORMED US THAT THIS ACTIVITY IS RELATED TO THE ONGOING KHALQ-PARCHAM INTERNECINE STRUGGLE, THE LATEST ELEMENT OF WHICH IS A REVOLT BY THE 14TH DIVISION IN GHAZNI. SOME OF OUR INFORMANTS INSIST THAT OTHER AFGHAN ARMY ELEMENTS AT MAIDAM SHAHR (KOTE ASHRO) HAVE JOINED IN THE REVOLT AND ONE CONTACT CLAIMS THAT THEY HAVE BESEIGED 200 SOVIET "TNAKS" THERE. IF THESE STORIES ARE TRUE, AND THE LEVEL OF HELICOPTER ACTIVITY SUGGESTS THAT THEY ARE, THE KARNAL REGIME AND THE SOVIETS ARE FACING THEIR GREATEST CHALLENGE SINCE THE INVASION. THE 14TH DIVISION IS ARMED WITH TANKS, ARTILLERY AND A VARIETY OF ANTI-7 84:4-25 23-09, POSSIBLY INCLUDING SAMs.

6. FIGHTING ONCE AGAIN BROKE OUT DURING THE LAST TWO NIGHTS IN PARTS OF KABUL. LAST NIGHT AT ABOUT 2330 HEAVY FIRING WAS HEARD IN THE SOUTHWESTERN QUARTER OF THE CITY FOR ABOUT 45 MINUTES. TRACER SHELLS AND ILLUMINATION FLARES WERE SEEN BY EMBASSY PERSONNEL AT THAT TIME. THIS MORNING MOST OF THE SHOPS IN THE SOUTHWESTERN QUARTER OF KOTE SANGHI WERE CLOSED. (IT SHOULD BE
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NOTED THAT, CONTRARY TO REPORTS BROADCAST OVER RADIO PAKISTAN AND ELSEWHERE, OTHER SHOPS IN KABUL REMAINS OPEN ON JULY 26 AND 27.)

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AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IN EDIATE

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CINCEUR VAIHENGEN GE

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KABUL 2203

7. BABRAK KARMAL CONVENED THE THIRD "PLENUM" OF THE PDPA
CENTRAL COMMITTEE JZON JULY 23 AMID RSVORS THAT HIS PARCHAM WING
WAS ATTEMPTING TO CRUSH ITS KHALQI ADVERSARIES. AS THE CC
MET, KABUL WAS RESOUNDING WITH RUMORS, MANY OF THEM REPEATESCBY INTER
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NATIONAL NEWS SERVICES, THAT SEVERAL TOP KHALQIS (AND
SOME PARCHAMISTS) HAD BEEN ARRESTED OR KILLED. SO FAR, HOWEVER,

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ALL OF THE LEADERS NAMED IN THE RUMORS HAVE APPEARED IN PUBLIC TO REFUTE THE ALLEGATIONS AS FAST AS OCCASIONS COULD BE DEvised. SOME OF THE APPEARANCES WERE REPORTED IN REFTEL; OTHERS WHO SHOWED UP AT THE CC PLENUM OR AT A CUBAN FUNCTION ON JULY 26 INCLUDED EDUCATION MINISTER RATEBZAD, REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL MEMBER NOOR AND POLITBURO MEMBER ZEARY.

8. OFFICIAL DRA ACCOUNTS OF THE PLENUM (LITTLE ELSE HAS APPEARED) ASSERTED THAT THE SESSION WAS HELD "IN COMPLETE UNITY AND SOLIDARITY," CAUSING LOCAL ANALYSTS TO PRESUME THAT THE OPPOSITE WAS TRUE. IN HIS SPEECH, KARNAL CALLED FOR AN END TO "FRACTIONALISM" AND FOR BEEFING UP MILITARY AND SECURITY FORCES, INCLUDING THOSE OF THE PDPA. HE WARNED THAT PDPA MEMBERS WHO HARM PARTY UNITY AND WHO "DIGRESS FROM PARTY POLICY" WOULD BE EXPELLED AND "PENALIZED ACCORDING TO THE PARTY MANIFESTO." AT THE SAME TIME HE ASSURED THOSE MEMBERS WHO "PLAYED IMPORTANT PARTS AS REAL FIGHTERS FOR REVOLUTIONARY CHANGE" THAT THEY SHOULD BE "IMMUNE" AND NEED NOT FEAR "VENDETTA OR PRESSURE." IN A BOW H THE SUPERIOR NUMBERS OF KHALQI OFFICERS IN THE ARMED FORCES, KARNAL HAD THE PLENUM AGREE TO "PAY SERIOUS ATTENTION" TO IMPROVEMENT OF PDPA LEADERSHIP AND LIVING CONDITIONS IN THE MILITARY, "PARTICULARLY FOR OFFICERS." SECURITY AT THE MEETING WAS THE STRONGEST SEEN IN KABUL FOR MANY MONTHS.

9. FURTHER RUMORS OF IMPENDING AMBASSADORIAL APPOINTMENTS CROPPED UP THIS WEEK (SEE KABUL 2109 NOTAL), GIVING RISE TO SPECULATION THAT THE DRA MAY TRY TO PUSH IRAQ, TURKEY AND YUGOSLAVIA TO RECOGNIZE THE KARNAL REGIME BY REQUESTING AGREEMENT FOR ENVOYS TO THOSE CAPITALS. SUSPICIONS THAT THE PLOY COULD SUCCEED WERE FUELED BY THE NEWS THAT IRAQI PRESIDENT SADDAM HUSSEIN HAD RESPONDED FORMALLY TO A CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE
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FROM KARNAL, AND THE REFUSAL OF THE TURKISH AMBASSADOR TO DISCUSS THE RUMOR WITH A NATO COLLEAGUE. THE MFA MEANWHILE CONTINUED TO IGNORE OUR REQUESTS THAT VISA APPLICATIONS FOR SEVERAL INCOMING USG PERSONNEL BE APPROVED. THE ONLY COMMENT WE WERE ABLE TO EXTRACT FROM THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF PROTOCOL WAS A QUESTION ABOUT THE SIZE OF OUR STAFF AND THE DUTIES OF VARIOUS PERSONNEL, AND A SUGGESTION THAT THE CHARGE CALL UPON THE ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER.

1. DESPITE EARLIER ASSURANCES THAT THE SOVIET EMBASSY WAS TOO BUSY TO ALLOW TOP PERSONNEL TO GO ON LEAVE THIS SUMMER, AMBASSADOR TABEEV DEPARTED ON JULY 26 FOR WHAT THE AEROFLOT REPRESENTATIVE

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TERMED A "VACATION." BULGARIAN AMBASSADOR RADOSLAVOV IS BUSY WITH A SERIES OF FAREWELL CALLS (HIS ETO IS AUGUST 20) DURING WHICH HE RESOLUTELY PREACHES THE STANDARD SOVIET LINE AND URGES HIS WESTERN INTERLOCUTORS TO RECOGNIZE THE "REALITIES" OF SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN AFGHANISTAN IN THE GREATER INTERESTS OF WORLD PEACE WHILE MOUTHING PLATITUDES ABOUT HOW FIRMLY BULGARIA OPPOSES EXTERNAL INTERVENTION IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF SOVEREIGN STATES.

11. THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN AFGHANISTAN ROSE TO 40 THIS WEEK WITH THE ARRIVAL OF FIVE MORE CITIZENS. THE NUMBER SHOULD DROP SOON IF TEN OTHERS DEPART AS PLANNED BY THE END OF THE WEEK. THOSE ARRIVING AND REMAINING WILL FIND AN INCREASINGLY CONCERNED KABUL POPULATION, MEMBERS OF WHICH HAVE BEEN HEARD LATELY TO COMPLAIN THAT "PRESIDENT CARTER" (AND AYATOLLAH KHOMENI) IS LETTING DOWN THE RESISTANCE FIGHTERS BY FAILING TO PROVIDE WEAPONS AND MILITARY BACKING FOR THEIR FIGHT AGAINST THE SOVIETS. AN INDICATION OF THE SECURITY OF THE CITY WAS THE MFA OFFER THIS WEEK TO PROVIDE SIX ARMED GUARDS TO EACH UNITED NATIONS PERSONNEL WHO WISH TO PLAY GOLF AT KARGHA ON THE WESTERN OUTSKIRTS OF KABUL.
GRIFFIN

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